

**REMARKS BY MR. GEOFFREY PROSCH
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

**CEREMONY MARKING THE EARLY TRANSFER
OF THE
FORMER FORT McCLELLAN
ALABAMA
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
TO THE McCLELLAN JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

Governor Riley, Congressman Rogers, Mayor Howell, and
members of the State Legislative delegation,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen - - Good Morning.

I am pleased to be back at McClellan to join you in this ceremony
to recognize the transfer of approximately 4,700 acres of the
former Fort McClellan to the McClellan Joint Powers Authority.
By choosing to enter into an early transfer arrangement,
redevelopment efforts can begin immediately in conjunction with
final environmental cleanup. Today marks the end of one era and
a new beginning for this property that has played an important
role in the history of the Army, and in the lives of many of the
personnel represented here today. Many of you either worked
here or played an instrumental role in determining the future use
and economic redevelopment for your community. Base
Realignment and Closure is not often seen as a positive action;
however, the Federal, state and local personnel who have worked

on this project demonstrate that a positive, innovative attitude will produce winning results for both the Army and the local community. We in the Army use McClellan as an example of “how to do it right.”

Today’s new beginning for the former Fort McClellan, will bring the citizens of this community a new opportunity comprised of a mixed-use development of residential, light industrial, office space and public recreational areas, and economic revitalization that was diminished by the closure of Fort McClellan. Your Local, State and Congressional Representatives have worked together with the Army’s team to successfully transfer the property from the Department of Army to the Joint Powers Authority.

The Army and the Joint Powers Authority worked closely over the past several years to accomplish some major milestones to transform this former military facility into a new commercial and residential hub that will help spur growth in Anniston, Calhoun

County and NE Alabama. This Army-Community team, and your local environmental officials successfully negotiated the Army's largest Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement whereby the Army will fund the Joint Powers Authority, who will perform the required environmental clean-up as an integral part of the planned redevelopment. Using the Army's Early Transfer Authority, Governor Riley agreed to the conveyance of the final 4,693 acres here at the former Fort McClellan dedicated to economic development, with environmental clean-up activities to be completed by the Joint Powers Authority with Army oversight. The Army and the Joint Powers Authority will continue to work closely over the next few years to ensure successful completion of the required environmental remediation. The execution of this significant Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement and use of the Early Transfer Authority under Federal law marks another major milestone for the Army and this former military facility. The use of these two innovative approaches to accomplish the objective of the base realignment and closure

program was clearly the solution to returning this property to the community much faster than scheduled. As the installation transitions from military to civilian use, it is our hope that the proud legacy of Fort McClellan will continue through the implementation of the community's re-use plan and the creation of jobs.

It is my pleasure to celebrate this transfer today, along with these distinguished members and representatives of your community, marking the culmination of several years of dedication and hard work by both McClellan and Army personnel. I am confident that the partnership forged between the Joint Powers Authority and the Army will prove to be one of the successes of the Defense Department's base conversion program.

Congratulations and Thank you.